#4

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add new Claims 18-45 as follows:

18. A method for securing a wheel cover to a vehicle wheel comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a vehicle wheel including an outboard tire bead seat retaining flange and a wheel disc, the retaining flange and the wheel disc cooperating to define an outboard surface of the vehicle wheel, the wheel disc having a plurality of windows formed therein;

(b) providing a wheel cover having an outer surface and an inner surface, the wheel cover having a styled configuration including selected portions which do not closely follow the contour of the vehicle wheel outboard surface, the wheel cover having a plurality of decorative openings formed therein, at least some of the decorative openings formed in the wheel cover defining an edge;

(c) positioning the wheel cover and the vehicle wheel relative to one another so that the selected portions of the wheel cover inner surface are spaced apart from the vehicle wheel outboard surface and the edge of the wheel cover decorative openings extends slightly past an adjacent edge of the wheel disc windows to effectively overlap the edge of the windows; and

(d) permanently securing the wheel cover to the vehicle wheel by using an expandable foam adhesive which is applied at least between the spaced apart surfaces of the selected portions of the wheel cover inner surface and the vehicle wheel outboard surface for contact therewith to thereby enable the expandable foam adhesive to secure the wheel cover to the vehicle wheel.

19. The method according to Claim 18 wherein at least some of the decorative openings formed in the wheel cover corresponding to the windows formed in the wheel disc.

20. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the wheel cover includes an outer peripheral portion which covers only a portion of the retaining flange.

21. The method according to Claim 20 wherein the wheel cover outer peripheral portion which covers only a portion of the retaining flange generally follows the contour of the vehicle wheel outboard surface.

22. The method according to Claim 20 wherein the uncovered portion of the retaining flange is painted silver.

23. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the wheel cover includes an inner peripheral portion which extends toward but does not cover a plurality of lug bolt holes formed in the wheel disc.

24. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the expandable foam adhesive covers substantially an entire interface between the wheel cover inner surface and the vehicle wheel outboard surface.

25. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the wheel cover includes an outer peripheral portion which is attached to the retaining flange of the vehicle wheel by a mechanical lock.

26. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle wheel is constructed from steel.

27. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle wheel is constructed from aluminum.

28. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the wheel cover outer surface is chrome plated.

29. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle wheel includes a wheel rim and a wheel disc which are joined together by a weld.

30. A method for securing a wheel cover to a vehicle wheel comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a vehicle wheel including an outboard tire bead seat retaining flange and a wheel disc, the retaining flange and the wheel disc cooperating to define an outboard surface of the vehicle wheel, the wheel disc having a plurality of windows formed therein;

(b) providing a wheel cover having an outer surface and an inner surface, the wheel cover having a styled configuration including selected portions which do not closely follow the contour of the vehicle wheel outboard surface, the wheel cover having a plurality of decorative openings formed therein, at least some of the decorative openings formed in the wheel cover defining an edge, the wheel cover including an outer peripheral portion which covers only a portion of the retaining flange and an inner peripheral portion which extends toward but does not cover a plurality of lug bolt holes formed in the wheel disc, the wheel cover outer peripheral portion which covers only a portion of the retaining flange generally following the contour of the vehicle wheel outboard surface;

(c) positioning the wheel cover and the vehicle wheel relative to one another so that the selected portions of the wheel cover inner surface are spaced apart from the vehicle wheel outboard surface and the edge of the wheel cover decorative openings extends slightly past the adjacent edge of the wheel disc windows which extends slightly past an adjacent edge of the windows to effectively overlap the edge of the windows; and

(d) permanently securing the wheel cover to the vehicle wheel by using an expandable foam adhesive which is applied at least between the spaced apart surfaces of the selected portions of the wheel cover inner surface and the vehicle wheel outboard surface for contact therewith to thereby enable the expandable foam adhesive to secure the wheel cover to the vehicle wheel.

31. The method according to Claim 30 wherein at least some of the decorative openings formed in the wheel cover corresponding to the windows formed in the wheel disc.

32. The method according to Claim 30 wherein the uncovered portion of the retaining flange is painted silver.

33. The method according to Claim 30 wherein the expandable foam adhesive covers substantially an entire interface between the wheel cover inner surface and the vehicle wheel outboard surface.

34. The method according to Claim 30 wherein the wheel cover includes an outer peripheral portion which is attached to the retaining flange by a mechanical lock.

35. The method according to Claim 30 wherein the vehicle wheel is constructed from steel.

36. The method according to Claim 30 wherein the vehicle wheel is constructed from aluminum.

37. The method according to Claim 30 wherein the wheel cover outer surface is chrome plated.

38. The method according to Claim 30 wherein the vehicle wheel includes a wheel rim and a wheel disc which are joined together by a weld.

39. A method for securing a wheel cover to a vehicle wheel comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a vehicle wheel including a wheel rim and a wheel disc joined together by a weld, the vehicle wheel including an outboard tire bead seat retaining flange which cooperates with the wheel disc to define an outboard surface of the vehicle wheel, the wheel disc having a plurality of windows formed therein;

(b) providing a wheel cover having a chrome plated outer surface and an inner surface, the wheel cover having a styled configuration including selected portions which do not closely follow the contour of the vehicle wheel outboard surface, the wheel cover having a plurality of decorative openings formed therein, at least some of the decorative openings formed in the wheel cover corresponding to the windows formed in the wheel disc and defining an edge, the wheel cover including an outer peripheral portion which covers only a portion of the retaining flange and an inner peripheral portion which extends toward but does not cover a plurality of lug bolt holes formed in the wheel disc, the wheel cover outer peripheral portion which covers only a portion of the retaining flange generally following the contour of the vehicle wheel outboard surface;

(c) positioning the wheel cover and the vehicle wheel relative to one another so that the selected portions of the wheel cover inner surface are spaced apart from the vehicle wheel outboard surface and the edge of the wheel cover decorative openings extends slightly past the adjacent edge of the wheel disc windows to effectively overlap the edge of the windows;

(d) permanently securing the wheel cover to the vehicle wheel by using an expandable foam adhesive which is applied at least between the spaced apart surfaces of the selected portions of the wheel cover inner surface and the vehicle wheel outboard surface for contact therewith to thereby enable the expandable foam adhesive to secure the wheel cover to the vehicle wheel.

40. The method according to Claim 39 wherein at least some of the decorative openings formed in the wheel cover corresponding to the windows formed in the wheel disc.

41. The method according to Claim 39 wherein the uncovered portion of the retaining flange is painted silver.

42. The method according to Claim 39 wherein the expandable foam adhesive covers substantially an entire interface between the wheel cover inner surface and the vehicle wheel outboard surface.

43. The method according to Claim 39 wherein the wheel cover includes an outer peripheral portion which is attached to the retaining flange by a mechanical lock.

44. The method according to Claim 39 wherein the vehicle wheel is constructed from steel.

45. The method according to Claim 39 wherein the vehicle wheel is constructed from aluminum.